

custom at a few points of the great continent. But even if the resemblance in this respect between ancient Egypt and modern Africa should be regarded as established. It would not justify us in inferring an ethnical affinity between the fair or ruddy Egyptians and the black aboriginal races, who occupy almost the whole of Africa except a comparatively narrow fringe on the northern seaboard. Scholars are still divided on the question of the original home and racial relationship of the ancient Egyptians. It has been held on the one hand that they belong to an indigenous white race which has been always in possession of the Mediterranean coasts of Africa ; and on the other hand it has been supposed that they are akin to the Semites in blood as well as in language, and that they entered Africa from the East, whether by gradual infiltration or on a sudden wave of conquest like the Arabs in the decline of the Roman empire.¹ On either view a great gulf divided them from the swarthy natives of the Sudan, with whom they were always in contact on their southern border ; and though a certain admixture may have taken place through marriage between the two races, it seems unsafe to assume that the religious and political resemblances which can be traced between them are based on any closer relationship than the general similarity in structure and functions of the human mind.

In a former part of this work we saw that the Shilluks, The a pastoral and partially agricultural people of the White Nile, worship the spirits of their dead kings.² The graves of the deceased monarchs form indeed the national or tribal shrines

¹ G. Maspero, *Histoire ancienne* since published it with fuller details. See C. G. Seligmann, *des Peuples de l'Orient Classique*, i. 43 *The Cult of Nyakang and the Divine sqq**; J. H. Breasted, *History of the Shilluk* (Khartoum, 1911), pp. 216-232 (reprint from *Fourth Report of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories*, Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum); W. Hofmayr, *Die Religion der Shilluk*, *Anthropos* vi. (1911) pp. 120-131; Diedrich Westermann, *The Shilluk People: their Language and Folk-lore* (Berlin, preface dated 1912), pp. xxxix. sqq. In what information there given was kindly supplied by Dr. C. G. Seligmann, who has drawn on all these authorities.

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